

Indiana Commissioner of Labor Announces Workplace Safety and Health Initiative
Program will focus on improved access to onsite safety consultation, outreach

INDIANAPOLIS—Indiana Commissioner of Labor Miguel R. Rivera, Sr. announced the launch of a new safety initiative, INSafe, aimed at reducing the number of workplace injuries and deaths.

This new proactive initiative will provide critical safety information and training to thousands of Indiana workplaces. INSafe will also focus its effort on rural communities and outreach to Hispanic workers, the fastest growing demographic in the Indiana workforce.

"One month ago, we honored those Hoosiers who lost their lives on the job at the Indiana Workers Memorial," Rivera said. "As we look forward from that somber occasion, we are committed to returning all Indiana workers home every night safe and sound."

INSafe will serve as a valuable tool for Indiana's workplaces. "Our services are provided at no direct cost to businesses," Rivera, an appointee of Governor Mitch Daniels said. "This is good news for small businesses that often do not have resources to hire safety experts."

INSafe will begin aggressively promoting its health and safety consultative services. "We will get out to all Indiana communities to let small business know what resources are available to them," said N. Davey Neal, Deputy Labor Commissioner who oversees INSafe. Experienced safety and hygiene consultants from IN Safe will be able conduct wall-to-wall evaluations or focus on specific areas of workplaces—walking surfaces or fall protection for example. INSafe will promote recognition and incentive programs for businesses that show excellence in safe operations.

Through the Department of Labor website (www.labor.IN.gov), INSafe will offer unprecedented instant access to safety resources. Workers and safety directors will see updated training materials and programs available for download in English and Spanish. Businesses will be able to request and schedule consultations through the INSafe webpage. Statewide and regional training opportunities will be available via an online calendar.

IN Safe will build strategic partnerships with chambers of commerce, trade associations and unions to gain greater access to its customers. At today's ceremony, Rivera announced partnerships with the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, Mechanical Contractors Association and State Building Trades Council. "Bringing business, management, labor and trade groups together makes good sense for everyone," said State Building Trades Council executive director Ben Ramsey. "We are pleased to be a part of this most necessary effort."

Praise for this initiative is coming from both sides of the political aisle. "We are encouraged by support from Republican and Democratic members of the Indiana House and Senate labor committees for our effort. Workplace safety crosses all political and ideological boundaries. We all agree more must be done to protect our fellow Hoosiers. We appreciate the support from our legislative leaders," Rivera added.

INSafe will phase in its initiatives over the next six months. For more information about INSafe or the Department of Labor, please call (317) 232-2655 or visit www.labor.IN.gov.